

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

----- 078764

R 120952Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0013

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4226

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: "ARAFAT PERCEPTION OF EGYPT-SYRIA RAPPROCHMENT POSSIBILITIES

REF: CAIRO 6441

1. EMBOFF HAS JUST OBTAINED INFORMATION WHICH SUPPORTS CONCLUSION THAT PLO/FATAH BELIEVES SYRIAN/EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHMENT IS IN THE OFFING. RELIABLE SOURCE, REPORTING ON 11 MAY CONVERSATION WITH SHAFIQ AL HOUT OF BEIRUT PLO OFFICE, QUOTED AL HOUT AS STATING THAT 'ARAFAT PREDICTED WEEK TO TEN DAYS AGO THAT CAIRO AND DAMASCUS WOULD MAKE THEIR PEACE SOON. HIS OPENING TOWARD EGYPT SHOULD, ACCORDING TO HOUT, BE READ IN THIS LIGHT AS WELL AS EFFORT TO FIND A POLE TO COUNTERBALANCE ENHANCED SYRIAN INFLUENCE OVER EVENTS IN LEBANON.

2. COMMENT: HOUT, BEIRUT OFFICE DIRECTOR, HAS

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EXCELLENT ACCESS TO 'ARAFAT. SOURCE HAS REPORTED

ACCURATELY ON HOUT'S REMARKS ON MANY OCCASIONS IN
THE PAST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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